REMARKS

The Examiner contends that the claims lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. As a result, the Examiner requires an election of a single species from one of Group I, II, III, IV, or V. The Examiner also contends that there is no generic claim.

The claims have been amended so that the currently pending claims include two independent claims, 1 and 16, which share the common technical feature of a solvent that includes an organic solvent, a non-ionic extractant, and a conductivity enhancer that increases the electrical conductivity of the solvent to reduce build-up of static electricity in the process and thereby reduce the electrostatic discharge hazard of the solvent to an adequate fire safety level. Accordingly, Applicants contend that the present claims form a unity of invention having a single general inventive concept. Applicants request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

If the Examiner does not agree, Applicants elect Group III, *i.e.*, original claims 11 and 18, which define the conductivity enhancer as a reagent containing 40-50% toluene, 0-5% propan-2-ol, 5-15% DINNSAA (dinonylnaphthasulphonic acid), 15-30% solvent naphtha, 1-10% TS polymer containing N, and 10-20% polymer containing S, which necessarily includes at least claims 1-8 and 14-16. Applicants believe that claim 1 is generic at least to claims 2-15 and that claim 16 is generic at least to claims 17-21.

Applicants believe that all currently pending claims are patentable and request

the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned attorney for Applicants at 312.321.4276 if it would expedite allowance of

this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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